Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Tuesday 16 Mar 2021 until 23:59 on Wednesday 17 Mar 2021

Forecast Issued on Monday 15 Mar 2021 at 09:57

Confidence: High for an improving day on Tuesday but some uncertainty in the timing of rain and low cloud clearance in the morning, give or take 1 or 2 hours. High for mainly dry conditions for the rest of the period with high pressure building.

Headline for Tuesday 16 Mar 2021: Low cloud and rain clearing then dry and sunny. Windy on the tops.

Mountain weather hazards on Tuesday 16 Mar 2021

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy Snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** No Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Medium Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** Low Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light rain	Heavy Rain	Light rain	Fog	Sunny	Sunny	Clear night	Partly cloudy (night)
Precipitation probability							
80%	80%	80%	30%	<05%	<05%	<05%	<05%

Forecast for Tuesday 16 Mar 2021

Weather: Extensive low cloud with outbreaks of rain or drizzle overnight and to start the morning, the rain mainly light in nature. This will soon clear south in the morning then dry with long spells of sunshine. Staying dry and clear in the evening.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 5% overnight and to start the morning but soon becoming 95% as cloud clears in the morning.

Visibility: Fog at most heights overnight and to start the morning with extensive cloud down to low slopes. This will clear away during the morning with excellent visibility then expected.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecast
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Forecast for Tuesday 16 Mar 2021

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	21/24 SW	24/28 W	27/31 W	30/36 NW	28/36 N	26/34 N	26/33 N	27/32 N	25/30 N
600	12/15 SW	17/23 W	20/26 W	19/25 NW	21/29 N	21/29 N	19/27 N	16/22 N	14/19 NW
300	2/13 SW	4/16 W	5/19 W	6/21 NW	10/26 N	10/25 N	7/23 N	5/18 N	4/15 NW
Valley	2/6 SW	2/11 W	5/17 W	9/24 NW	11/26 N	11/26 N	8/24 N	6/18 N	5/14 NW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	3/-3	4/-2	4/-2	4/-3	4/-2	5/-0	4/-2	3/-4	2/-4
600	4/-0	5/0	5/-0	6/1	6/2	8/4	6/1	4/-1	3/-2
300	5/4	6/4	6/4	7/5	9/7	11/8	8/6	6/4	4/2
Valley	6/5	7/6	7/6	9/6	11/9	12/10	10/8	8/6	6/4
Freezing Level*	1900m	1700m	2100m	1700m	1100m	1200m	1200m	1100m	1000m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Once the low cloud clears away and sun comes out it will feel very mild, even warm, at low levels with highs of 14 to 16 Celsius. Still feeling quite cold on the tops though with a strong northerly wind.

Forecast for Wednesday 17 Mar 2021

Weather: Dry with bright or clear spells. A chilly start to the day and remaining rather cold on the tops throughout but becoming quite mild in the valleys.

Maximum wind: North or northwest, 20mph gusts 30mph decreasing to 10-15mph.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 90%.

Visibility: Generally very good. Patchy cloud obscuring the summits at the very start of the day, quickly lifting.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 3C rising to 10 or 11C.
At 800m: Plus 1C rising to 5C.
Freezing level: Above summits.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Monday 15 March 2021 Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:10 Full report: We are continuing to provide the Fell Top Reports for people undertaking their daily local exercise during the lockdown. We would like to remind everyone that Government guidance stipulates that people should only exercise locally, not leaving the village, town or city where they live. There is currently quite a contrast between the Spring-like valleys resplendent with daffodils and the wintery conditions that exist on the fells. There is no snow below 600m; above 600m the average snow depth increases with altitude although coverage varies enormously with little or nothing on exposed and windswept areas, such as parts of the summit plateau, to deep drifts easily able to swallow a 60cm ice axe with a depth of 30cm not uncommon. The most extensive and deepest coverage are to be found in sheltered spots and hollows and on predominantly, but far from exclusively, north and east facing aspects. The snowpack was soft, wet and, with a summit temperature just above freezing, thawing at virtually all levels. The thaw was especially rapid below 700m. Trudging through deep, soft snow is energy sapping so walkers out on Tuesday should allow extra time for this. There are cornices above, again mainly but not exclusively, N and E facing slopes. Although small, they consist of soft, wet, unstable snow so please keep well clear of such edges and advise those with less experience to do likewise; indeed on the Helvellyn plateau there were footprints far, far too close to the corniced edge. Exposed routes above the snowline, such as Striding and Swirral Edges, are in mixed condition with bare rock and snow along their crests. Both exits are guarded with deep, steep banks of snow. Today, this was soft snow and only an ice axe was required to safely negotiate them. However it would only take a marginal drop in temperature for the snow to harden and ice to return so anyone attempting such routes must be experienced in winter mountaineering and equipped with both ice axe and crampons. With a summit wind chill well below freezing, full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat and gloves), mountain boots and equipment are all essential for anyone going out onto the fells. Excellent navigation is required when deep snow obscuring landmarks is combined with low cloud as paths cannot simply be followed. Please be conservative with your plans and know both your limits and also when to turn back. A pandemic is not the time to be pushing your comfort zone. Temperature: plus 0.9 C Maximum wind speed 20.6 mph Wind chill: minus 6.2 C Average wind speed: 8.9 mph.

Issued at: 1700 on Mon 15 Mar 2021

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